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The Evans & Reeves Grapevine

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NO. 9

LET'S RESOLVE!

At this time of the year many people make resolutions—some of which are kept! Here is a resolution you can make with regard to your garden, and which, if kept, will pay off in pleasure all through 1952, and for years to come.

There must have been times when you have thrilled at encountering some new and interesting plant. It is an experience common to plant lovers the world over.

Whether you have struggled uncomfortably through steamy jungle, climbed dangerous heights to attain this thrill or whether you find it at Evans & Reeves, the thrill is still there. So, LET'S RESOLVE to challenge that slogan "It's Different" and see what Evans & Reeves have to offer for the new year; for you can be among the first to possess plants never before offered for sale in the trade. New and strange plants. Plants that will be conversation pieces when growing in your garden. Plants that will put you in a special class in your garden circle.

Interested? Then ask us about **Dais cotinifolia**, a beautiful little South African tree,

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Rosy Future

Down through the years from widely separated countries, each country contributing its particular species and hybrids, come to us the present-day roses.

Lauded in song and verse, employed as an emblem for many a cause, mostly good ones—and always highly prized by lovers of flowers, it surely has stood the test of time as a popular flower.

The bareroot planting season is here, so a few timely tips. Buy top grade stock—low priced, weakly plants are poor economy. The weaklings had their chance in the growing field alongside the top grade plants, under the same conditions, same

(Continued on inside page)

IT'S TIME FOR . . .

Budding Boughs

Now is the time to plant Roses (see elsewhere) and deciduous flowering trees and shrubs, as well as baked sub-tropical fruits; to prune and spray deciduous or dormant materials; to sow seed of certain quick-cover cool-weather carpet flowers; to tuck bulbs into last-minute places; and to survey the nursery for unexpected or forgotten winter and early spring color.

FLOWERING DECIDUOUS TREES, established for one year in five gallon cans, now available, include two Cherries—**Prunus campanulata** (pink to red) and **Prunus subhirtella**, light pink, both upright but weeping; one Apricot, **Prunus mume** var. **Rosemary Clark**, double light pink, earliest of all; one Crab, **Malus ioensis** var. **Bechteli**, late very double light pink; and several forms of purple-leaf **Myrobalan Plum**. (From \$4.)

All these BRONZE-FOLIAGE PLUMS are hybrids of *Prunus cerasifera* var. *atro-purpurea*, and ones we particularly recommend are **Thundercloud** (the blackest stems), **Bliriana** (the showiest double pink flowers), **Vesuvius** (the most round-headed tree), **Pissardi** (purple leaves and single pinky-white flowers), and **Hollywood Plum** (purple leaves and edible fruit). Now we add one equally ornamental purple-leaf shrub to five feet, **Prunus cistena**. Dark coppery foliage, and in winter the smooth black boles and beautifully patterned limbs, are welcome color contrasts to any garden, and none of them grows very large.

The most adaptable deciduous FLOWERING SHRUB, we think, is the ornamental Quince, **Chaenomeles japonica**. This we offer you this season in white, pale pink, red and salmon. The shrub is low-growing, curiously branched, seldom completely deciduous, blooms intermittently from October to May, and is priceless for flower arrangements. (\$4.)

Special attention is called to another

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NO EYESORE FROM MYSORE

WELL-BRED BANYAN

Many years ago at an age when I had very little interest in horticulture, I visited in company of a shipmate, the resplendent palace of the Maharajah of Mysore. Although I was not aware of it at the time I have since learned that the enormous trees under which we passed on the trip from Singapore were a species of banyan named, oddly enough, **Ficus mysorensis**.

This handsome evergreen tree is quite comfortable here in Southern California. It grows rapidly to a suitable shade tree proportion, is well clothed in large round leaves, in the young stage bright green and fuzzy, in maturity dark and leathery. One local specimen has reached an age of about thirty-five years in the course of which it has weathered several "unusual" winters as testimony to its cold resistance, a rather surprising circumstance considering its origin.

Ficus mysorensis had never been available until a few years ago when we succeeded in rooting about two dozen plants. Those few plants quickly found a place in local gardens but we are happy to announce that we can now offer a good supply of this banyan in several sizes, thanks to a seed source established in 1948. Incidentally, don't be alarmed at the potential size of this tree suggested by its heritage. The reverse emphasis on "Mysore was never like this" which our banyan feels in California is just enough to limit its growth to a reasonable size! Specimens in 20 gallon cans (illustrated) are \$17.50; five gallon cans, \$7.50.

IT'S TIME FOR . . . Ori

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group of deciduous flowering ornamentals — the **ORIENTAL MAGNOLIAS**, best planted at this time of the year. Actually sensational is **Magnolia Campbelli**, a slow-growing tree eventually of considerable size, from the Himalayas, leaves to one foot long, great saucer-like flowers to 14 inches across, pink outside, pink and white inside. We have choice balled specimens which should bloom in two to three years, \$17.50 and \$20. Another rare Magnolia we offer you is **Dawsoniana**, a similar but smaller tree with flowers ten to 15 inches across, rose-violet outside, snow-white inside. Beautiful less rare species are **soulangeana**, **stellata** and **liliflora** in varying forms. (From \$7.50.)

Easily the favorite of deciduous **FLOWERING VINES** is **Wisteria sinensis**, a heavy twiner of easy culture for large fences, walls, or on big trees. From late February to early April the grape-shaped racemes of fragrant pea flowers present a spectacle of lilac, shell pink or white. Two-year-old blooming-size plants four feet tall are \$4.50.

Unusual **SUB-TROPICAL FRUITS** appropriate to sections of lighter frost are the **Cherimoya**, and the white **Sapote**. The former is usually deciduous and a little tender but its products are delectable. The latter is relatively frost hardy, an even more abundant bearer, and is, in addition, one of our most ornamental practical shade trees for lawn or patio, usually to

LET'S RESOLVE! . . .

(Continued from front page)

happily acclimated here, which produces two-inch heads of fragrant pale pink flowers on two year old plants.

Let us tell you of yet **another Philodendron**, newer and more sensational than **P. selloum**. A parent of this new seedling boasted leaves five feet long and more than two feet wide.

Or there is our **new Thevetia**: A small tree which blooms freely in our coastal area, the flowers of which are formed like exquisitely molded pale golden goblets, exceeding in beauty the lovely **Allamanda** blossoms which you perhaps have admired in warmer climes. This is for late spring planting.

These are just a few of a number of special offerings you should ask to see. They are different!

Oriental Magnolias

twenty feet and as much across, less drop-page than the avocado, and with shining dark evergreen foliage.

Now for a quick set of MUST-ACTIVITIES FOR JANUARY. **Don't** wait until March when everything is upholstered with aphids to get out your spray gun. **Today** get a sizeable bottle of lime-sulphur (Cal-sul or its equivalent) and **spray everything in the garden** (including the ground) except Apricots. Use Bordeaux on Apricots. Don't overlook old Chrysanthemum clumps just cut off—they are typical hibernating spots for pests.

Fill in vacant spots in perennial beds with **Bachelor Buttons**, **Dimorphotheca**, and **Bellis perennis** (English Daisy), as well as the usual cool-weather annuals. A few seeds may germinate now—**Godetia**, **Larkspur**, **Linaria**, **Virginian Stock**, **Candytuft** and **Rock Alyssum**. In bulbs now is the ideal time for **Glads**, and a last call for getting in **Hippeastrum**, **Ranunculus** and **Anemones**.

Other winter colors you may have forgotten include **Reinwardtia** (yellow), **Eupatorium ianthinum** (lavender), **Senecio petasitis** (deep yellow sun or shade), **Berberis Darwini** (deep yellow medium-height evergreen shrub), **Calliandra inequilatera** (bright pink, sun), and **Lotus mascaensis** (gray foliaged, yellow pea-flowered cover for sun).

ROSY FUTURE . . .

(Continued from front page)

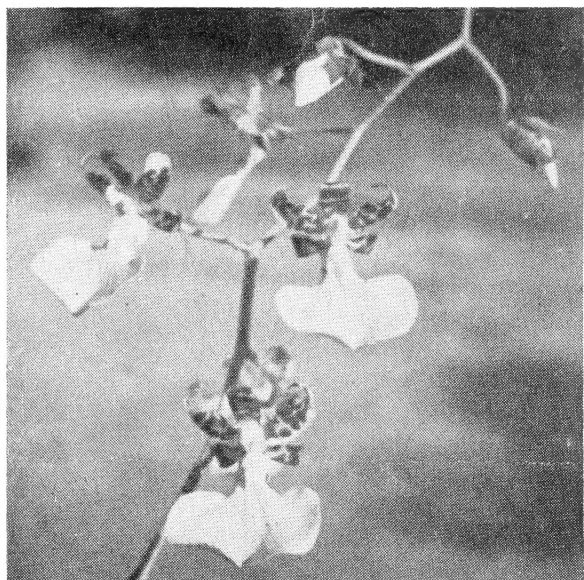
treatment. They did not make the grade then and the chances are they never will.

Buy varieties proven to be suitable to your locality. This is important. When you plan a rose garden have the whole area spaded deeply, the deeper the better. The deep, wide spreading root system resulting from such preparation will pay dividends, especially in the hot months.

Put a good supply of bone meal under your roses at planting time. Let your roses get all the sun possible. Along the coastal area the early morning sun is of special importance, minimizing the chance of mildew.

Don't crowd your plants. Let the air circulate freely among them. Some varieties are more vigorous growers than others, place these where they will not hide the less vigorous members of the planting.

Now the best tip to the inexperienced—when you purchase your plants ask your



Hugh Evans

Oncidium splendidum

Orchids which bloom at Christmas and New Year endear themselves to us, and such a subject is *Oncidium splendidum*, producing a profusion of yellow flowers from two to three inches across on graceful arching sprays from one to three feet in length. This orchid, a native of Guatemala, is very easy to manage and a faithful bloomer. A few pots of this beautiful *Oncidium* interspersed with *Cattleyas*, etc., add considerably to the general effect in the greenhouse and act as a foil to the more sumptuous flowers of the hybrid orchids.

Culture is simple, either osmunda or a light compost with plenty of drainage, protection of a greenhouse in winter with minimum night temperature of 50 degrees, and cool treatment in summer.

When this particular orchid was first introduced into England in the last century, it created quite a sensation and brought large prices, but various expeditions sent to bring back more plants of this species were unsuccessful in finding it again, until colonies were finally found growing on the ground like any other herbaceous plant. In Europe and the Eastern States whole greenhouses have been devoted to the growing of this orchid for cut flowers, and I know of one grower in Santa Barbara who for many years grew a large number of this gay and happy orchid. From \$5 to \$12.50.

salesman for a few pointers, he can help you to get started right.



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ROSES ARE HERE NOW! GET THEM NOW— THEY WILL ALL BE GONE IN FEBRUARY

So with no indecision whatever allow us to suggest fool-proof named varieties for gardens in this general area. (We will gladly suggest others for the San Fernando Valley or even the desert upon request, for regardless of where you live you can certainly grow well **SOME** Roses.) All **REDS** mildew some in coastal regions, but we nominate for the probable three best **Etoile de Hollande**, **Christopher Stone** and **Nocturne**. In the near reds **Charlotte Armstrong** is still in a class by itself, performing

admirably where any hybrid tea rose will grow at all. For **PINKS** we'll take **Sweet Sixteen**, **Pink Rosette** (floribunda), and now we're betting (our only gamble) on the gorgeous new light salmon, **Helen Traubel**. In **WHITES** we still think **Snowbird** stands alone. **YELLOW** offers more choice, from **Peace** (a pastel with shell-pink edging) through **Lowell Thomas** and **Mrs. E. P. Thom** to deep **San Luis Rey** which we add for its wonderful perfume. **Texas Centennial** and **Mark Sullivan** are certainly of the best **MULTICOLORS**, the former on the pink side, the latter, nearer orange and gaudy. If you live where summer temperatures are low (Santa Monica and the Palisades), by all means plant **Fred Edmunds** (which is poor inland) for a glowing orange to apricot and it will bloom every month in the year. We have **Garnettes!**

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